



MISSION

To enhance the delivery and quality of urologic care through education and advocacy for patients and physicians.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The mission statement of the WSUS is "***To enhance the delivery and quality of urologic care through education and advocacy for patients and physicians.***" The board has representation on numerous state and national committees advocating for urologist issues and representing Washington State. For example:

Carleen Bensen MD - *CMS Carrier Advisory Committee, AUA Coding and Reimbursement Committee, AUA National Insurance Advisory Workgroup*

Jeff Evans MD - *Western Section Representative the American Urologic Association's Public Policy Council*

Jeff Frankel MD - *President, Western Section American Urologic Association*

Rich Pelman MD - *AACU Board of Directors, AACU Urology Delegate to the AMA House of Delegates*

Annually, the WSUS hosts (and all members are welcome) a Urology Specific Legislative Day when we go to Olympia to meet with our individual legislatures to bring up issues important to us and our patients. This year's legislative day is January 30, 2020. The WSUS Government Affairs committee is currently working on the details of the agenda that we will post when available. Please consider joining us.

We now have Committee Chairs for Men's Health (Rich Pelman), Women's Health (Una Lee), and Pediatric Health (Kathleen Kiernan) on the WSUS board working on

both education and advocacy issues. Dr. Pelman has created the "[Men's Health Podcasts](#)" which are a great resource for patient education. Podcasts for Women's Health and Pediatric Health are in the works.

SEPTEMBER HEALTH AWARENESS MONTHS

Prostate Cancer Awareness Month . The WSUS is the local presenting sponsor of the ***Zero Prostate Cancer Run/Walk***. Join us Saturday, September 28, 2019 at Willis Tucker Park in Snohomish. www.zeroprostatecancerrun.org/pugetsound

There will be a 5K run/walk, 1 mile walk, Kids' Superhero Dash for Dad, and virtual Snooze for Dudes program. Stick around for the family-friendly post-race celebration. Participants will receive shirts, free food, and the opportunity to connect with others who are impacted by prostate cancer.

The Men's Health Fair/Kids Activities Open at 8am and the run starts at 9:30. Seattle Seahawks' BLUE THUNDER performs at 9:10am

Women In Medicine awareness month. Dr. Lee is hosting the 3rd Annual Women in Urology Fall Leadership Event. SAVE THE DATE--Oct 2nd, 2019 -- 6-10pm!! WSUS Women in Urology Reception/Town Hall followed by a cooking class taught by celebrity chef Tom Douglas at his cooking school, the Hot Stove Society. Space is limited. [Registration Link](#)

Childhood Cancer Awareness Month Testicular cancer is the most common solid tumor in children and young adults. Download free patient friendly [information on testis cancer at the Urology Care Foundation](#)

INTERESTING READS

Several of our patients are asking about these articles. Take a look at them for yourself to be aware of the data.

1) [Effect on increased daily water intake in premenopausal women with recurrent UTI: A Randomized clinical trial.](#)

Among those with recurrent UTI (>3/year), increasing fluid intake by 1.5L/day reduced the rate of UTIs.

2) [Association Between Androgen Deprivation Therapy Use and Diagnosis of Dementia in Men With Prostate Cancer](#)

In this SEER-Medicare database study, use of ADT was associated with a small increase in the reported rate of Alzheimers and dementia.

3) [Anticholinergic Drug Exposure and the Risk of Dementia](#)

In this nested case-control database study, there were statistically significant associations of dementia risk with exposure to anticholinergic and several other medications.

IN MEMORY OF



[Al Defalco, MD.](#)

One of Washington State's urologists, Dr. Al Defalco, passed this summer. Dr. Defalco impacted many lives as a surgeon, teacher, and mentor.



[Jim Kiefert](#)

The Prostate Cancer Family has lost a great member- Jim Kiefert. After Jim's diagnosis in 1989, he joined the prostate cancer fight by advocating for more research, funding, and support. His passion, and compassion, will truly be missed.

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The Washington State Urology Society Executive Board quarterly meeting was held September 10th.

Washington CAC

There were 2 LCDs finalized pertinent to urology: MoIDx Decipher Biopsy Prostate Cancer Classifier for Men with Very Low and Low Risk Disease and MoIDx Oncotype DX A1C-V7 Nucleus Detect for Men with Metastatic Castrate Resistant Prostate Cancer. Comments were all favorable.

There are 2 other MoIDx LCDs for consideration: MoIDx Decipher Biopsy Cancer Classifier Assay for Men the Unfavorable Intermediate Risk Disease and MoIDx Decipher Biopsy Prostate Cancer Classifier for Men with Favorable Intermediate Risk Disease.

AUA Coding and Reimbursement Committee

Much of what is discussed in this committee is confidential and cannot be reported. There are several procedures coming up for CPT review that companies want the committee to present and/or support. Long discussion ensued as to whether the AUA should present or merely support these applications. In the past, both have been done. In the interest of transparency and fairness, the committee is creating a policy as to how and what should be done in these situations.

National Insurance Advisory Workgroup – May 22, 2019

AUA has signed on to support HR 2282, the Medicare Coordination Improvement Act of 2019 (Stark Modernization). The goal is to decrease barriers to care coordination and create Stark exemptions for APMs by removing the volume or value prohibition in the Stark Law so practices can develop APM (Alternative Payment Models).

Anthem Blue Shield is trying to dis-allow modifier 25 for services provided on same day

United Health Care has a huge list of prior authorizations including BCG, Lupron, ESWL

Humana is covering Urolift

The AUA is again hosting an Insurance Round Table at Headquarters in Maryland with CMS and other insurance providers on **November 7**. If you have any burning topics to address, please contact Stephanie Storck at the AUA.

Women's Health

Una Lee MD, WSUS Women's Health Committee Chair, is participating in a medical education and surgical program in Mbarara, Uganda this September with an organization called Medicine for Humanity (www.medicineforhumanity.org).

Wednesday October 2nd, 2019 6:00-7:00 p.m. will be the 3rd Annual WSUS Women in Urology Fall Leadership Event. It will be held at the Hotel Andra in Seattle. Unique this year is that instead of being served dinner the participants will engage in a cooking class taught by local celebrity chef Tom Douglas himself at his cooking school, the Hot Stove Society. Space is limited to 40.

Men's Health

September is Prostate Cancer Awareness Month. This is a great opportunity to and locally via the Seattle Times (article due late October) and Kong TV. There is a planned poster for the WSAUA regarding the podcast. All interviews are voluntary. Rich Pelman MD, WSUS Men's Health Chair, thanks Sean Fox our podcast producer and recognizes Dr. Kathleen O'Connor who has volunteered her time and expertise in listening to all episodes for final editing prior to publishing and development of the description for each podcast.

Pediatric Urology

1. The advocacy priorities for the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Section on Urology and the Washington Chapter of the AAP are in the process of being set and will be finalized between now and mid- October. Current priorities include behavioral health, firearm control, and equitable care. promote Men's Health. Consider contacting your local paper, news station (Radio or TV), or giving a brief presentation at a community resource (service organization, church/ synagogue, hospital). Clinic based screenings could also be considered.

November is Bladder Health Month and is also Movember (Testicular Ca, Prostate Ca and mental health awareness combined)

The Original Guide to Men's Health podcast launched this past Spring already has 21 episodes published and has received national recognition through the American Medical Association

2. September is Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. Although leukemia is overall

the most common cancer in children, neuroblastoma is the most common solid tumor and Wilms tumor is the most common malignant renal lesion. Additionally, many adolescent, young adult, and adult patients have genitourinary late effects from either disease or treatment. Thus, pediatric cancer is relevant to urologists practicing in all settings. Relative to the number of adults with cancer, pediatric cancer is extremely underfunded. Dr. Kieran will be attending the Children's Oncology Group meeting later this week and will be in contact with other WSUS members regarding opportunities for our group to support visibility and knowledge around pediatric oncology.

3. November is Bladder Health Month. The Seattle Children's Hospital Division of Urology is planning a 0.5-1 day CME, ideally in Q3 or Q4 of FY2020 but possibly in FY2021 if schedules dictate.

4. Dr. Kieran was a speaker at the 2019 What's New in Medicine CME course in Kennewick. Since over half of pediatric primary care providers have no exposure to urology during education or training, this was a unique opportunity to discuss common pediatric urologic conditions.

5. Dr. Kieran and the Yakima Valley primary care providers are continuing to work on the project gathering information on challenges facing families of children with special health care needs (including urologic issues) as they transition to adult care.

6. The Family Jewels Foundation is looking for a urologist to participate as a board member. All those interested should contact Debi Johnson for more information. djmgmt@gmail.com or 425-971-5822 cell.

Government Affairs

Both the WA legislation and congress have not been in session, so no new issues to report. Congress returned September 9th. The primary issue being discussed in surprise billing.

Governor Inslee officially proclaimed September as Prostate Cancer Awareness Month at the request of the WSUS.

Make sure to plan to attend the Annual Urology Legislative Day in Olympia on January 30th.

Public Affairs

Press releases have been sent regarding prostate cancer awareness month, ZERO Prostate Cancer Run/Walk, WSUS collaboration with the national African American Male Wellness Initiative (WA Chapter) and WSUS Original Guide to Men's Health podcast.

There will be an increase effort to reach civic groups and healthcare reporters in the coming year.

SAVE THE DATES

September 23, 2019

6:00pm-8:00pm

WSUS Urology Community Roundtable
Taverna Tagaris, Richland, WA

September 28, 2019

WSUS hosted ZERO Prostate Cancer Run/Walk & Superhero Kids Dash for Dads

Willis Tucker Park, Snohomish, WA
www.zeroprostatecancerrun.org/pugetsound

October 2, 2019

WSUS Women in Urology Leadership Team Building Event
The Hot Stove Society

October 13-14, 2019

AACU Annual Meeting
The Willard Hotel, Washington DC

November 2-7, 2019

AUA Western Section Annual Meeting
The Portola Hotel and Monterey Conference Center
Monterey, CA

November 4, 2019

WSUS Social Hour at WSAUA 4:00-5:00pm

The Portola Hotel and Monterey Conference Center
Monterey, CA (Cottonwood Room)

December 3, 2019

WSUS Quarterly Board Meeting @ 6:30 pm
Seattle, WA

January 10, 2020

Puget Sound Urology Residents Collaborative Annual Meeting
Hotel Murano: 1320 Broadway, Tacoma, WA 98402

January 11, 2020

WSUS Annual Strategic Planning Session
Redmond, WA

January 30, 2020

WSUS Annual Legislative Day
Olympia, WA

February 8-9, 2020

NWUS Annual Meeting
Vancouver, BC

May 15-18, 2020

AUA Annual Meeting
Walter E. Washington Convention Center
Washington, DC

June 26-28, 2020

WSUS Annual Meeting
Sleeping Lady Mountain Resort
Leavenworth, WA

June 25-27, 2021

WSUS Annual Meeting
The Couer d'Alene Resort
Couer d'Alene, ID



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